



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Funding Highlights:

- The Department of Education's mission is to support States and school districts in their efforts to provide high-quality education to the Nation's most vulnerable students, streamline and simplify funding for college, and expand access to postsecondary options.
- The Budget includes a substantial increase for Career and Technical Education of nearly \$900 million to strengthen America's workforce by providing access to high-quality vocational programs in every high school. The Budget also provides increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and programs that serve disadvantaged populations.
- The Budget consolidates 29 narrowly focused or duplicative elementary and secondary programs into a new \$19.4 billion block grant to States. The new program would give States and school districts the flexibility to better meet the needs of their students and families, eliminating Federal intrusion into State and local education systems. While providing a significant investment to U.S. schools, this approach saves taxpayers nearly \$4.7 billion.
- The Budget requests \$66.6 billion for the Department of Education, a \$5.6 billion or 7.8-percent decrease compared to the 2020 enacted level.

The President's 2021 Budget:

The Department of Education's top priority is to promote education freedom: freedom for students and parents to choose the schools that best meet their needs; freedom for States and school districts to decide how best to meet the needs of their students; and freedom to choose high-quality, affordable postsecondary options and career pathways that lead to fulfilling lives. The Budget promotes these goals while restoring fiscal discipline in discretionary spending. The Budget also reduces Federal burdens on State and local education and places a particularly strong focus on providing a path to good jobs. In addition, the Budget expands families' ability to choose high-quality educational options for their children. The Budget would increase competition and transparency, reduce student debt, and ensure that what students are learning matches the needs of emerging industries. By increasing accountability for institutions of higher education and helping students only borrow as much as they need, the Budget would help make higher education more affordable while protecting both students and taxpayers.

K-12 Education

The Budget request for elementary and secondary education demonstrates the Administration's commitment to providing States and school districts with the funding and autonomy necessary to enable all children to receive a high-quality education, while also acknowledging the powerful contributions that high-quality career and technical education can make to both individual attainment and economic prosperity.

Creates a New Elementary and Secondary Education for the Disadvantaged Block Grant. The Administration proposes to consolidate 29 formula and competitive grant programs into a \$19.4 billion formula grant that would allow States and school districts to decide how best to use the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) funds to address local educational needs and improve outcomes for all students. This proposal builds on an important goal of the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act to restore greater State and local control over education while maintaining key accountability and reporting requirements aimed at protecting students, supporting meaningful school improvement efforts, and giving parents the information they need to choose a high-quality education for their children. The consolidation of most ESEA programs into a single block grant, which would allocate funds through the same formulas used by the Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies program, would significantly reduce the Federal role in education and allow the Department to reduce staffing and administrative costs over time.

Increases support for Career and Technical Education (CTE). To support the Administration's commitment to preparing students to succeed in today's competitive, rapidly changing economy, and answer the ever increasing needs of a booming economy, the Budget includes \$2 billion for CTE State Grants. This substantial increase over the 2020 enacted level builds on the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which would help ensure that all of the Nation's high schools are able to offer high-quality CTE programs. The Budget also includes \$90 million for CTE National Programs to support high-quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and computer science CTE programs. In addition, the Budget proposes to double the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 fee for the H-1B visa program and direct 15 percent of the revenues to CTE State Grants, which is estimated to provide more than \$100 million in additional funding for this program.

"As States begin to think about their long-term career and technical education strategies, I would encourage them to continue to act boldly and break down the silos that exist between education and industry so that all students are prepared for the in-demand, high-paying jobs of today's economy and tomorrow's."

Betsy DeVos
Secretary
July 1, 2019

"To help support working parents, the time has come to pass school choice for America's children."

President Donald J. Trump
February 5, 2019

Provides Education Freedom to Families and Students. Families must have the freedom to choose the best learning experience for their children. The Administration's Education Freedom Scholarships proposal would provide up to \$5 billion annually in State-designed scholarship programs that could support a range of educational activities such as CTE, special education services, and tuition for private school. This proposal would make tremendous strides toward the goal of providing all students with the opportunity to receive a high-quality education and achieve future success.

Invests Significant Resources for Students with Disabilities. The Administration believes that all children, including children with disabilities, should have access to a high-quality education. The Budget invests nearly \$13 billion in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grants to States, an increase of \$100 million compared to the 2020 enacted level. This increase would provide more resources for States to provide special education and related services for over seven million students with disabilities. In addition, the Budget continues to fund all other IDEA grant programs at the 2020 enacted levels.

Higher Education

The Budget addresses student debt and higher education costs while reducing the complexity of student financial aid. The Budget provides further protection to students and taxpayers by eliminating unlimited loans and providing institutions with tools to help borrowers manage their debt.

Supports Improvements to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Budget includes important investments to support improvements at HBCUs. In total, the Budget proposes \$749 million in discretionary funding to support HBCUs. The Budget also includes a proposal to consolidate six programs into a single formula grant to institutions serving low-income and minority students, providing funds more institutions can count on, yielding program management efficiencies, and targeting funds to institutions that serve their students well. In addition, the Budget proposes to target \$150 million to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities at HBCUs and other institutions serving historically disadvantaged students located in Opportunity Zones. Further, the Budget supports the recently passed FUTURE Act, which provides \$85 million in mandatory funding to HBCUs each year.

Protects Students and Taxpayers from Growing Student Loan Burden. The Budget protects students by eliminating default for impoverished borrowers and providing expedited loan forgiveness for undergraduate borrowers who make 15 years of responsible payments. In addition, the Budget protects graduate and parent borrowers from racking up crushing debt, often never repaid to taxpayers, by instituting sensible annual and lifetime loan limits. In addition, the Budget closes loopholes currently allowing high-earning graduate-degree holding borrowers to avoid repaying their student loans, leaving taxpayers holding the bag.

Expands Pell Grant Eligibility to Short-Term Programs and Incarcerated Students. The Budget provides greater access to higher education opportunities by expanding eligibility for Pell Grants, the foundation of financial aid for low- and moderate-income students, in two key ways: first, students would be able to use Pell Grants at high-quality, short-term programs to gain the skills to secure well-paying jobs in high-demand fields more quickly than traditional two-year or four-year degree programs; second, the Budget makes Pell Grants available to certain incarcerated students to improve employment outcomes, reduce recidivism, and facilitate their successful reentry to society.

Empowers States to Deliver Evidence-Based Postsecondary Preparation Programs. Given fiscal constraints and the statutory prohibition limiting the Department's ability to rigorously evaluate program effectiveness, the Budget proposes to restructure and streamline the TRIO, GEAR UP, and CAMP programs by consolidating them into a \$950 million State formula grant. This innovative proposal would support evidence-based postsecondary preparation programs designed to help low-income students progress through the pipeline from middle school to postsecondary opportunities.

Reduces Burden, Expands Options, and Protects Free Speech

Overly burdensome regulatory requirements can adversely affect the Nation's ability to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century.

Protects Free Speech on College Campuses. The Department continues to support free and open debate on college and university campuses. Colleges and universities that receive Federal research or education grants must adhere to the requirements of the First Amendment to the Constitution and all other requirements of Federal law.

Reforms Accreditation to Promote Innovation and Lower Costs. The accreditation process is meant to ensure academic quality in higher education, but it had become a burdensome, costly exercise that forced schools to comply with a narrow vision of education. The Department's regulations streamline and reduce unnecessary costs associated with accreditation to open up paths for innovative programs and improve outcomes.

Safeguards Students from Fraudulent Institutions. The borrower defense rule establishes a clear standard for discharging student loans of borrowers defrauded by their institutions, providing transparency to both students and institutions. The rule also fairly holds all institutions to clear standards of accountability and allows the Department of Education to respond quickly and decisively to early signs of financial instability.

Rescinds Gainful Employment Regulations that Restricted Student Choice. On July 1, 2019, the Department rescinded the burdensome Gainful Employment regulations. The regulations failed to equitably hold all institutions accountable for student outcomes.

Improves Services for Taxpayers

Reforms and Modernizes Federal Student Aid. The Budget supports the multiyear Next Generation Financial Services Environment effort to build the technology and operational components that support the Federal student aid programs including the development and implementation of a new loan servicing platform to improve service for all Federal student loan borrowers. The office of Federal Student Aid is currently working to consolidate all of its customer-facing websites into a single, user-friendly hub to complement a new mobile platform and give students, parents, and borrowers a seamless experience from application through repayment.

Prioritizes Evidence and Evaluation. The Department of Education has long been a leading agency in building and using evidence. The Budget sets aside funds for higher education evaluation, which would be integrated into the Department's broader learning agenda development for the first time.

Reduces Waste: Eliminates Ineffective or Redundant Programs.

The Budget eliminates wasteful funding for 11 programs and consolidates 29 elementary and secondary programs into a new block grant. Eliminated programs include Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, which duplicates Pell Grants but are less targeted on those who need the most help. The Budget also eliminates International Education programs, given that a number of other Federal agencies offer programs that are similar and potentially duplicative. The new elementary and secondary block grant removes Federal bureaucracy and gives States flexibility to fund their own priorities. Consolidated programs include narrowly focused competitive grants and programs that have not proven to improve student outcomes. Together these policies would decrease taxpayer costs by \$6.4 billion. In addition, the Budget saves \$500 million by eliminating Account Maintenance Fees, excessive payments to student loan guaranty agencies participating in the wasteful legacy Family Federal Education Loan Program as it winds down.